



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS RELEASE

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FPPC sues DNC panel for campaign disclosure violations ***Agency charges failure to report \$1.2 million in contributions***

The Fair Political Practices Commission today (Feb. 25) filed a civil complaint in Sacramento Superior Court against a California campaign committee sponsored by the national Democratic Party, and the treasurers of that committee, for failing to timely disclose \$1.2 million in contributions.

The FPPC complaint alleges that the campaign committee, called the Democratic National Committee, Non-federal – Corporate, its treasurer, Andrew Tobias, and its assistant treasurer, Carol Pensky, made contributions totaling \$1.2 million dollars to the Democratic State Central Committee of California in connection with the November 7, 2000, general election, but did not disclose the contributions prior to the election.

The two-count complaint also alleges that the DNC Non-federal – Corporate committee had a duty to file a paper pre-election campaign report and an electronic pre-election campaign report by October 26, 2000, disclosing contributions made during the reporting period of October 1, 2000, through October 21, 2000. During that reporting period, the DNC Non-federal – Corporate committee made contributions to the California Democratic Party totaling \$1,201,861. The DNC Non-federal – Corporate committee did not disclose the contributions until three months after the November 7, 2000, election.

The complaint further alleges that the conduct of the DNC Non-federal – Corporate committee, uncovered through an audit performed by the state Franchise Tax Board, is part of a pattern of non-compliance with the campaign reporting provisions of California's Political Reform Act. The committee also failed to file pre-election campaign statements in four previous California elections, according to the complaint.

An administrative action is the FPPC's more common method of prosecuting enforcement matters. For the 2000 election, the maximum possible administrative penalty was \$2,000 per violation (subsequently increased to \$5,000 with the passage of Proposition 34).

However, because of the large amount of unreported contributions, this case was handled as a civil action to allow for the possibility of a higher fine. In such actions, the court can award penalties ranging up to the amount of the undisclosed contributions.

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The complaint is available on the FPPC website at *www.fppc.ca.gov*. Click on ["litigation"](#) on the left side of the home page.

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